

I. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows with the following version of the claims in accordance with revised 37 CFR § 1.121.

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1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
- 5 3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
- 10 6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
- 15 8. (Canceled).

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9. (Currently Amended) A method of computer-implemented steps for object-oriented management of serializable objects, the method comprising: The method of claim 7 further comprising:
5 identifying an object, wherein the object comprises a set of attributes;
associating a class version identifier with the object, wherein the class version identifier identifies the object as an instance of a specific version of a class;
10 associating an attribute version identifier with an attribute in the set of attributes such that each attribute in the set of attributes is associated with an attribute version identifier;
reading a data stream representing a serialized object, wherein the data stream comprises a serialized class version identifier, a set of serialized attribute values, and a set of
15 serialized attribute version identifiers, wherein serialized attribute version identifiers in the set of serialized attribute version identifiers are paired with serialized attribute values in the set of serialized attribute values;
20 reading a class identifier for the serialized object from the data stream;
instantiating the object in accordance with the class identifier, wherein the class version identifier of the object and the serialized class version identifier of the serialized
25 object may differ;
reading an attribute count for the set of serialized attribute values from the data stream;
mapping attributes between the object and the serialized object; and
30 storing serialized attribute values from the data stream in the object.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

in response to a determination that a serialized attribute version identifier is greater than or subsequent to the class version identifier of the object, refraining from storing in the object a serialized attribute value associated with the
 5 serialized attribute version identifier.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
 in response to a determination that the class version identifier of the object is greater than or subsequent to the
 10 serialized class version identifier, storing default attribute values in the object for attributes in the object that are associated with an attribute version identifier that is greater than or subsequent to the serialized class version identifier.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of computer-implemented steps for providing backwards and forwards compatibility between different versions of serialized object data, the method comprising:

- 5 identifying an object, wherein the object comprises a set of attributes, wherein each attribute in the set of attributes is associated with a version identifier, and wherein the object is an instance of a first version of a class;
- writing a data stream representing serialization of the
- 10 object's attributes and associated version identifiers;
- reading a data stream representing a serialized object into a new object instance of a second version of a class; and
- refraining from storing attributes from the data stream into the new object instance that are not represented in the new
- 15 object instance while reading the data stream.

- 13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising:
- specifying default values for attributes in the new object
- instance for which attribute values were not read from the data
- 20 stream.

- 14. (Canceled).
- 15. (Canceled).
- 5 16. (Canceled).
- 17. (Canceled).
- 18. (Canceled).
- 10 19. (Canceled).
- 20. (Canceled).
- 15 21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program product on a computer readable storage medium for use in a data processing system for object-oriented management of serializable objects, the computer program product comprising:
5 The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising:
instructions for identifying an object, wherein the object comprises a set of attributes;
instructions for associating a class version identifier with
10 the object, wherein the class version identifier identifies the object as an instance of a specific version of a class;
instructions for associating an attribute version identifier with an attribute in the set of attributes such that each attribute in the set of attributes is associated with an
15 attribute version identifier;
instructions for reading a data stream representing a serialized object, wherein the data stream comprises a serialized class version identifier, a set of serialized attribute values, and a set of serialized attribute version identifiers, wherein
20 serialized attribute version identifiers in the set of serialized attribute version identifiers are paired with serialized attribute values in the set of serialized attribute values;
instructions for reading a class identifier for the serialized object from the data stream;
25 instructions for instantiating the object in accordance with the class identifier, wherein the class version identifier of the object and the serialized class version identifier of the serialized object may differ;
instructions for reading an attribute count for the set of
30 serialized attribute values from the data stream;

instructions for mapping attributes between the object and the serialized object; and
instructions for storing serialized attribute values from the data stream in the object.

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23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising:

instructions for refraining from storing in the object a serialized attribute value associated with the serialized
10 attribute version identifier in response to a determination that a serialized attribute version identifier is greater than or subsequent to the class version identifier of the object.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 22
15 further comprising:

instructions for storing default attribute values in the object for attributes in the object that are associated with an attribute version identifier that is greater than or subsequent
20 to the serialized class version identifier in response to a determination that the class version identifier of the object is greater than or subsequent to the serialized class version identifier.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product on a computer readable storage medium for use in a data processing system for providing backwards and forwards compatibility between different versions of serialized object data, the computer
- 5 program product comprising:
- instructions for identifying an object, wherein the object comprises a set of attributes, wherein each attribute in the set of attributes is associated with a version identifier, and wherein the object is an instance of a first version of a class;
- 10 instructions for writing a data stream representing serialization of the object's attributes and associated version identifiers;
- instructions for reading a data stream representing a serialized object into a new object instance of a second version
- 15 of a class; and
- instructions for refraining from storing attributes from the data stream into the new object instance that are not represented in the new object instance while reading the data stream.
- 20 26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25 further comprising:
- instructions for specifying default values for attributes in the new object instance for which attribute values were not read from the data stream.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for object-oriented management of serializable objects, the apparatus comprising:

means for identifying an object, wherein the object comprises a set of attributes;

5 means for associating a class version identifier with the object, wherein the class version identifier identifies the object as an instance of a specific version of a class; and

means for associating an attribute version identifier with an attribute in the set of attributes such that each attribute in the set of attributes is associated with an attribute version identifier;

10 means for reading a data stream representing a serialized object, wherein the data stream comprises a serialized class version identifier, a set of serialized attribute values, and a set of serialized attribute version identifiers, wherein serialized attribute version identifiers in the set of serialized attribute version identifiers are paired with serialized attribute values in the set of serialized attribute values;

15 means for reading a class identifier for the serialized object from the data stream;

20 means for instantiating the object in accordance with the class identifier, wherein the class version identifier of the object and the serialized class version identifier of the serialized object may differ;

25 means for reading an attribute count for the set of serialized attribute values from the data stream;

means for mapping attributes between the object and the serialized object; and

30 means for storing serialized attribute values from the data stream in the object.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising:

means for writing a data stream representing an object serialization of the object, wherein the data stream comprises the class version identifier of the object, an attribute value for an attribute in the set of attributes, and an attribute version identifier for an attribute in the set of attributes.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising:

10 means for refraining from storing in the object a serialized attribute value associated with the serialized attribute version identifier in response to a determination that a serialized attribute version identifier is greater than or subsequent to the class version identifier of the object.

15 means for reading a data stream representing a serialized object, wherein the data stream comprises a serialized class version identifier, a set of serialized attribute values, and a set of serialized attribute version identifiers, wherein serialized attribute version identifiers in the set of serialized attribute version identifiers are paired with serialized
20 attribute values in the set of serialized attribute values.

30. (Original) An apparatus for providing backwards and forwards compatibility between different versions of serialized object data, the apparatus comprising:

- means for identifying an object, wherein the object
- 5 comprises a set of attributes, wherein each attribute in the set of attributes is associated with a version identifier, and wherein the object is an instance of a first version of a class;
- means for writing a data stream representing serialization of the object's attributes and associated version identifiers;
- 10 means for reading a data stream representing a serialized object into a new object instance of a second version of a class;
- and
- means for refraining from storing attributes from the data stream into the new object instance that are not represented in
- 15 the new object instance while reading the data stream.